

Application No. 10/648,907
Attorney Docket No. 20984-0006

D) AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

None.

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E) REMARKS

This Response is filed in response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2005.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-3 and 6-10 will be pending in the Application.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cox (U.S. Patent No. 5,807,047); and rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox in view of Brewer (U.S. Patent No. 6,089,343).

Claim 2 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cox (U.S. Patent No. 5,807,047), hereinafter referred to as "Cox."

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include limitations present in claims 4 and 5, which are not taught or suggested by Cox and have been indicated as allowable by the Examiner in the Office Action dated July 5, 2005. Specifically, Cox fails to teach or suggest a first connector generally U-shaped having an accommodating space that opens upwardly, a second connector being disposed in said accommodating space of said first connector when said first and second chassis members are brought toward each other to align said hole units in said first and second connectors, and where the second connector is generally U-shaped, as presently claimed.

Independent claim 1 includes features that are not taught or suggested by Cox, as discussed above. Thus, since Cox does not teach or suggest all of the limitations recited in independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Cox does not anticipate Applicant's invention as recited in independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-3 and 6 are believed to be allowable as depending from what are believed to be allowable independent claim 1 for the reasons given above. In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 6 are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Cox and are therefore allowable.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox in view of Brewer (U.S. Patent No. 6,089,343), hereafter referred to as "Brewer."

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Claim 6 is dependent upon claim 1, which includes limitations indicated as allowable, as discussed above with respect to the Rejection under 102(b). A newly presented claim 7 includes the limitations present in original claim 6 and original claim 1. Newly presented claims 8-10 are dependent upon newly presented claim 7.

Specifically, the Examiner stated that Cox fails to disclose a restricting member including a threaded fastener. The Examiner further states that Brewer teaches the following, including #12:

- First chassis member (for example, #16) including a first connector (including #60) formed with a hole unit (including #64)
- Second chassis member (for example, #14) including a second connector (including #58) formed with a hole unit (including #64)
- Second connector disposed on first connector when chassis members are brought toward each other to align the hole units in the connectors (best seen in figure 4)
- Restricting member (including #62, 64) able to arrest movement of the chassis members relative to each other and including a threaded hole (including #64) formed in the second connector and a screw fastener (including #62) threaded through the threaded hole and butting against the first connector (best seen in figures 4, 5)

The Examiner further asserts the following:

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It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify the vehicle chassis of Cox such that it comprised restricting member including a threaded screw fastener as claimed in view of the teachings of Brewer so as to more securely fasten the chassis members and prevent movement between them with an inexpensive fastening means.

The present invention includes, *inter alia*, a vehicle chassis comprising a restricting member for arresting movement of said first and second chassis members relative to each other, said restricting member including a threaded hole formed in said second connector, and a screw fastener threaded through said threaded hole and abutting against said first connector.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 6, now newly presented independent claim 7, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Brewer, as understood, is directed to a vehicle frame having openings (reference number 64 in Brewer) formed in a telescoping inner and outer end portions (60,58), and screw fasteners (62) inserted entirely through the openings (64) to secure the first and second chassis members (16, 14) and to engage nuts having threaded holes (see column 3, line 25 and Figure 3).

In contrast to Brewer, independent claim 7 recites a screw fastener that abuts against the first connector.

Independent claim 7 includes features that are not taught or suggested by Cox or Brewer. As indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action, Cox fails to disclose a restricting member including a threaded fastener. The Examiner relied on Brewer to cure the deficiencies of Cox by teaching the limitations of the restricting member including a threaded fastener.

However, Brewer does not teach or suggest the restricting member including a threaded fastener, as claimed in independent claim 7. Specifically, Brewer teaches screw fasteners that are inserted entirely through the inner and outer portions (see e.g., reference numbers 60 and 58 in Figure 9 of Brewer) in order to be threaded into nuts to secure the fasteners. In contrast, the restricting member (see e.g., reference number 52 in Figure 9 of the present application) of the present invention does not pass through the first connector (24), as in Brewer, but instead the

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restriction member is threaded into the threaded hole and abuts against said first connector, as claimed in independent claim 7. The abutment of the restriction member of the present invention arrests relative movement of the first and second chassis member and the locking pin (see pages 11 and 12 of the present specification). Further, the restriction member, as claimed in independent claim 7, abuts the first connector in order to provide alignment of the hole units through which the locking pin is extended (see page 11, second full paragraph of present specification), which is not provided by the fasteners of Brewer that are inserted fully through the inner and outer end portions (60, 58). Brewer fails to teach the claimed abutment, and therefore fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 7. Therefore, Brewer fails to remedy the deficiencies of Cox. Thus, since the combination of Cox and Brewer does not teach or suggest all of the limitations recited in independent claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Cox and Brewer do not anticipate nor render obvious Applicant's invention as recited in independent claim 7.

Therefore, in view of the above, dependent claims 8-10, which are similar to originally filed claims 2-4, are believed to be distinguishable from Cox and/or Brewer and therefore are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Cox and/or Brewer. In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7-10 are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Cox and/or Brewer and are therefore allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claim 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claims would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response thereto, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5 and the intervening claim 4 and is therefore believed to be allowable.

Newly Added Claims

Claim 7 has been added by the Response to include the limitations previously included in original claims 1 and 6. In addition, dependent claims 8-10 have been added to further define the invention. No new matter has been added by new claims 7-10.

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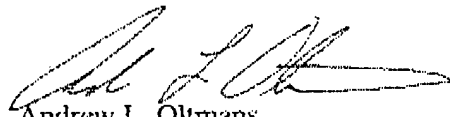
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Application and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections. As a result of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3 and 6-10 are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious by Cox, Brewer or their combination and thus, are in condition for allowance. As the claims are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the applied art, Applicant requests allowance of claims 1-3 and 6-10 in a timely manner. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of this Application could be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,
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